

Medical Innovation Tax Credit (MITC). Over the years, the federal government has invested billions of dollars to create a biomedical establishment of medical schools and teaching hospitals deemed the finest in the world. The growth of managed care, coupled with cuts in Medicare payments, threatens the ability of these medical schools and teaching hospitals to carry out their vital social mission of research, training of health professionals, and the provision of indigent care.

The Medical Innovation Tax Credit would establish an incremental 20 percent tax credit for clinical trials performed at medical schools, teaching hospitals that are under common ownership or affiliated with an institution of higher learning, or non-profit research hospitals that are designated as cancer centers by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This credit would partially offset the roughly 30 to 50 percent greater cost of doing clinical trials at these institutions. It would encourage biomedical firms to do clinical trials here in the United States while providing a revenue source for medical schools, teaching hospitals, and NCI-designated cancer centers. Clinical trials at these crown jewels of our health care system have dropped from 82% of clinical trials in 1985 to an estimate of 27% in 1996.

This narrow credit is designed to complement the R&D tax credit and has been scored by the Joint Committee on Taxation as having negligible cost so long as the R&D credit is in effect. The legislation—H.R. 1039 in the House and S. 1010 in the Senate—has attracted strong bipartisan sponsorship and support. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your vital leadership on this important issue. I know others on the Committee are co-sponsors of this legislation, and we appreciate their support and efforts as well.

The Future of Biotechnology. The first quarter century of biotechnology has been a period of astounding advance. The next quarter century promises revelation and quantum leaps forward. The industry is on the cusp of major breakthroughs, breakthroughs that would have been the stuff of science fiction—not science—a few short years ago.

One example of where Genentech is headed in the future is our use of computers and the new technologies of bioinformatics to search large databases of information to advance our own research and medical science. Genentech's Secreted Protein Discovery Initiative (SPDI) builds on our world-class expertise in cloning and expressing genes from the human genome that encode proteins. SPDI focuses—through the brilliance of computer technology—on identifying the minority of proteins that are most likely to be of therapeutic interest. And because SPDI is just that—"speedy," it has dramatically enhanced our scientific capabilities and is leading to new candidates for research. For example, SPDI has already helped identify proteins that may be useful as cancer therapies through a process called "apoptosis," which means the genetic programming of the death of cells or, in the case of cancer, tumor cells. This technology would not have been possible 5 years ago. Both the Human Genome Project and the increases in computational capability through smaller, more powerful computers make bioinformatics work. Both the Human Genome Project and the advances in computer capability rely on federal research as the platform for future breakthroughs.

Our pipeline is very exciting and robust. In addition to apoptosis, we are making headway on an advanced form of our original

product, tPA, which is effective in the treatment of heart attack and stroke victims. We are also moving forward with research on a product designed to block the cascade of health problems associated with asthma and other allergies, and are in the process of testing Herceptin on other forms of non-breast cancers as well as on earlier stages of breast cancer.

As I hope I have illustrated for you today, the biotech industry holds tremendous promise for the future and lives of so many patients facing serious illnesses. Our resolve to better their lives is unwavering, even in the context of an unpredictable financial and regulatory environment.

However, two things are predictable as we look toward the future of biotechnology. As in the industry's first 25 years, the next 25 years will require federal policies that are supportive of biomedical research and innovation. And finally, the industry as a whole will only succeed if we continue to keep the patient—the human face in biotechnology—first and foremost in all our decisions.

GRANTING THE VIRGIN ISLANDS GREATER FISCAL AUTONOMY

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the benefit of the Members a copy of the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 2841, an act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,

Washington, DC, September 28, 1999.

HON. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2841, an act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions, and for other purposes.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DAN L. CRIPPEN,
Director.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE

SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

H.R. 2841—An act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions, and for other purposes—as passed by the House on September 27, 1999

H.R. 2841 would provide the government of the Virgin Islands, a territory of the United States, more flexibility in issuing general obligation debt (that is, debt that the Virgin Islands secures by pledging its full faith and credit). Specifically, the legislation would allow the Virgin Islands to issue general ob-

ligation debt for any public purpose authorized by its legislature. It also would remove certain types of debt from the territory's limit on aggregate debt and would allow its government to pay bondholders on a monthly or quarterly basis. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that enacting H.R. 2841 would decrease governmental receipts by about \$2 million over the 2000–2004 period, with the amount of forgone receipts totaling less than \$500,000 for each year. The estimates loss of receipts would occur as a result of the government of the Virgin Islands increasing its amount of tax-exempt debt. Because the legislation would affect governmental receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

In addition, the legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Governor of the Virgin Islands to establish financial controls and performance standards for the territory. Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that providing the technical assistance would not significantly increase costs at the Department of the Interior.

H.R. 2841 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The legislation would provide significant benefits to the government of the Virgin Islands.

The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN SMITH,
DARLENE TURNER AND DAWN
YERGER ON THEIR SELECTION
AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE
VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE
TEEN CONFERENCE IN WASH-
INGTON, DC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today, the selection of three teens from Northwest Indiana to participate in the Voices Against Violence Teen Conference in Washington, D.C.

Megan Smith, a senior at Chesterton high school was selected along with Darlene Turner and Dawn Yerger, both seniors at Emerson School of the Performing Arts in Gary. These three teens will join over 400 youths from across the country as they work with law-makers to develop youth violence prevention strategies.

The interest that has surrounded this conference is proof enough to me that our teenagers believe that preventing youth violence is a top priority, and want to be empowered in creating solutions to this emerging national crisis.

These three students represent the very best in our young people and I eagerly look forward to working with them during their trip to Washington. I have the utmost confidence that these three students will represent Northwest Indiana and the First Congressional District with dignity and leadership.

Megan Smith is a senior at Chesterton High School in Chesterton. Megan ranks first in her class of 439 students. She has excelled in varsity basketball and soccer at Chesterton. Megan is also active in her church, student government, SADD, and Chesterton's academic superbowl team.

Darlene Turner is a senior at the Emerson School of the Performing Arts in Gary where she ranks in the top quarter of her class. Darlene is active in a number of extracurricular activities at school, including the academic superbowl and spellbowl teams, Christians in Action, and the National Honor Society. She is also involved in her community as a church youth leader and a member of the Gary Civic Youth Orchestra.

Dawn Yerger is also a senior at Emerson School of the Performing Arts in Gary. Dawn ranks in the top quarter of her class and is active in extracurricular activities including National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Science Club, and Christians in Action. She is also involved in The Jesus Club, the International Thespian Society, and the Delta Teen Lift Organization.

Congratulations to these three exceptional young ladies and I look forward to their trip to our Nation's Capital.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PIYUSH
AGRAWAL ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of America's unsung heroes, Dr. Piyush Agrawal. The celebration of his retirement from public education, particularly in his role as Superintendent of Piscataway Township Public Schools in Piscataway, New Jersey, this Saturday, October 2, 1999, will certainly leave a great void in our public school system.

During the years that I have known Dr. Agrawal as an administrator par excellence in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, he truly epitomized the preeminence of a caring public servant who genuinely exuded the virtues of a gentleman and a scholar. I want to express my gratitude for all the efforts and sacrifices he consecrated to the thousands of children and their parents, as well as the administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals working in our Nation's fourth largest school system.

He has been in the field of education since 1955. His career has spanned over four continents from Asia to Europe, to Africa and to North America. His broad range of assignments included a stint as a United Nations expert on education, and has likewise served as a Consultant for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the new American Schools Development Corporation (MASDC) and the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). He has also served on several prestigious na-

tional task forces and panels such as the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, the Florida Speaker's Task Force on Mathematics, Science and Computer Education, and the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics.

Many of his colleagues admire him for his leadership in ensuring equality of opportunity in our schools. At the same time, his forceful advocacy in adhering to the tenets of equal treatment under the law for all has been unequivocal not only in the halls of academia, but also in every government agency geared toward the responsible and productive well-being of our children. In fact, countless others have been touched by his untiring commitment to this agenda.

Dr. Agrawal is the consummate educational activist who abides by the dictum that those children who have less in life through no fault of their own should be helped at all costs in their quest for mastery of the basic skills and academic achievement. He has not faltered one iota in his belief that all children can learn and can succeed, given the appropriate affective and cognitive assistance from their parents and teachers. The numerous accolades with which he has been honored by various state and national organizations succinctly represent a genuine testimony of the utmost respect he enjoys from the academic community.

Blessed by a down-to-earth common sense, he is also imbued with the uncommon wisdom of subtly recognizing the strengths and limitations of those who have been empowered to govern over the well-being of others. It is this quality that endears him to many of his colleagues. And it is this superlative rapport that buttresses his leadership over several civic and social organizations, which have so wisely depended upon his vision and commitment.

Presently, he serves as Vice-President of the National Advisory Council for South Asian Affairs, a public interest foreign policy group recognized by the U.S. State Department. In 1994 he was appointed by the then Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown to the U.S. 2000 Census Advisory Committee on the Asian and Pacific Islander Populations for a three-year term. In 1997, he was reappointed to another three-year term by current Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley.

He thoroughly understands the accoutrements of power and leadership. And he is wont to exercise this knowledge alongside the mandate of his convictions and the wisdom of his conscience, sagely focusing their elements upon the good of the community he has learned to love and care for so deeply. His word is his bond to those he deals with—not only in his moments of triumphal exuberance, but also in his quest to help transform our communities into the veritable mosaic of vibrant cultures and diverse people converging into the great promise and optimism that is America.

Dr. Piyush Agrawal truly exemplifies this unique leadership whose courageous vision and firm belief appeal to our noble character as a nation. At the risk of being presumptuous, I want to extend to him the gratitude of our community. I sincerely bid him good luck on his well-deserved retirement and wish him Godspeed in all his endeavors. He will certainly be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 1999, I was unavoidably detained during three rollcall votes: number 460, H. Res. 312 on Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for Consideration of H.R. 2910, National Transportation Safety Board Authorization; number 461 on Approving the Journal; and number 462 on Passage of H.R. 2910, the National Transportation Safety Board Authorization. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 460, 461, and 462.

TRIBUTE TO OHIO CITIZENS
AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 19–25, 1999 was recently observed in my home State of Ohio as Ohio Lawsuit Awareness Week (LAAW). As the House prepares to vote on the critical issue of managed care reform, there is perhaps no more appropriate time to focus attention on the importance of preventing lawsuit abuse and reversing our Nation's transformation into an overly litigious society.

Ohio Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (OCALA) has been a leader in this regard in recent years. We owe a debt of gratitude to the more than 5,000 consumers, physicians, taxpayers, small business operators and other professionals associated with OCALA who have dedicated their time and resources to increasing public awareness of lawsuit abuse and the need to improve America's civil justice system. We owe particular thanks to Dr. David Rummel, DDS; Peter Beck; Ken Blair, Jr.; Gerald Miller; and Claire Wolfe, MD, all of whom are members of OCALA's Board of Directors.

In recent years Congress has made great strides in the effort to reform our Nation's justice system and ensure that it is structured to protect the rights of citizens, rather than simply the prosperity of the trial bar. Whether the issue has been securities litigation, medical malpractice, or the "Y2K" problem, we have been steadfast in our support for bipartisan reforms that seek to restore fairness to the legal system and limit frivolous litigation. Next week, as the House faces the highly politicized challenge of protecting patients and expanding access in our Nation's healthcare delivery system, we must strive to be consistent in that posture.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to all of the individuals associated with OCALA, and to express my strong support for the cause for which OCALA exists. Through the courage and dedication of organizations like OCALA across the United States and the courageous support of legislators who